

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented): A method for operating a computer that is connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing that the computer have an FPGA hardware structure which may be physically reconfigured;

loading first configuration data including a software portion and a hardware portion for a first task, allocated to the computer, into the computer via the network wherein the loading is initiated either independently or in response to a specific request;

automatically reconfiguring the FPGA hardware structure of the computer with the aid of the hardware portion of the first configuration data so that the computer exhibits a hardware structure configured to the first task; and

processing the first task with the computer configured with the first configuration data.

Claim 2. (previously presented): A method for operating a computer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

configuring, prior to completion of the step of processing the first task, a part of the hardware of the computer that is no longer necessary for the step of processing the first task, for processing a second task by loading second configuration data allocated to the second task into the computer via the network.

Claim 3. (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of: processing the second task prior to the completion of the step of processing the first task.

Claim 4-8 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): A method for operating a computer that is connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

loading first configuration data via the network into a computer having an FPGA hardware structure which may be physically reconfigured; wherein said first configuration data includes a software portion and a hardware portion for a first task, and wherein the loading is initiated either independently or in response to a specific request;

automatically reconfiguring the FPGA hardware structure of the computer with the aid of the hardware portion of the first configuration data so that the computer exhibits a hardware structure configured to the first task; and

processing the first task with the computer configured with the first configuration data.